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Sugar Trade,
WITH THE
INCUMBRANCES

T H E R E O N,
Laid Open.

By
A Barbadoes P L A N T E R.



L O N D O N:

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To His Excellency

The Rt. Hon. SCROOP,

Lord Viscount *HOWE*,

Baron of *CLEONELLY*,

His Majesty's Captain-General
and Governor in Chief, in and
over the Islands of *Barbadoes*,
St. Lucia, *Dominico*, *St. Vin-*
cent's, and *Tobago*, &c. and
Vice-Admiral of the same, &c.

May it please Your Excellency,



THE great Concern Your
Excellency has shewn for
the Preservation of this
Colony, encourages me
to lay before You this
small Treatise upon a
Trade, on which this Island entirely
depends; and which, I am sensible, is

The DEDICATION.

often uppermost in Your Lordship's Mind, not only from Your thorough Acquaintance therewith, whilst a Member of the *British* Parliament, but also from Your known Inclinations to do Good.

THE Sense the *British* Legislature now have of the Circumstances of this Trade, and the great Experience and unwearied Endeavours of the *Auditor General*, together with Your Lordship's good Offices in our Behalf, have already produced us a Law, that will soon let us partake of the Blessings of our Mother Country.

THE Readiness that was shewn, to give this Relief, as soon as proper Applications were made, induces me to conclude, that when the whole State of the *Sugar* Trade is fairly laid open, and made known to that wise Legislature, we shall soon be put upon an equal Footing with Foreign Sugar Planters.

SHOULD

The DEDICATION.

SHOULD what I now offer, *My Lord*, upon this Subject, be any ways conducive to that End, it will fully answer my Intentions.

YOUR LORDSHIP'S Interest at Home, and the tender Regard You have for the Welfare of the People here, will undoubtedly greatly contribute towards making this a flourishing Colony, by a beneficial Regulation of the *Sugar* Commerce.

AND I am fully persuaded, that the Share your Excellency will have in bringing about so wish'd for a Turn, will be remember'd with the utmost Gratitude by all his Majesty's good Subjects, and particularly by the poor Inhabitants of this Island.

As to my Part, I heartily wish Your Excellency may live long after the Accomplishment of so good a Work, and have the Pleasure to see what the *British* Sugar Planters can do, when they

The DEDICATION.

are allowed to start fair, and are once
put upon a Level with their Rival
Neighbours. I am,

May it please Your Excellency,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient, and

Most Devoted

Humble Servant,

Barbadoes, Oct. 2.
1733.

John Ashley.



THE PREFACE.

 *HE following Piece is intended to shew the Incumbrances and Charges that remain on the Sugar Trade, since the passing of the late Act, for the better Securing and Encouraging the Trade of his Majesty's Sugar Colonies in America; and also to compare the Advantages we may reap by that Act, with those which we yet stand in need of; and thereby manifest the Necessity there is for some further Relief.*

The first and most material Point aim'd at, is, that of a direct Exportation of our Sugars from the Plantations to foreign Ports: This Advantage the French have had over us these Seven Years, which has improved their Trade and Plantations to a great Degree, whilst we are visibly declining for want of a more extensive Vent of our Produce. The Reasons for this are herein plainly set forth; and it is here also demonstrated, that the French Planter gains over and above the English Planter at foreign Markets, from 20 to 50 per Cent. on his prime Cost, by this very single Article; which vast Difference must, in a short Time, leave them Masters of the Sugar Trade, without some speedy Regulation.

The next Point is, that of the Duty of 3 s. 6 d. per C. upon Importation into Great Britain:

The P R E F A C E.

tain; which, upon Coarse Sugar, is now become a most heavy Duty; since the want of a direct Exportation, together with the great Quantities imported, have brought the Price down to much less than it can possibly be made for, without regarding the Interest on the Value of the Planters Land and Stock; so that that Stock, and the Quantity of Sugar made, together with the British Navigation and Power, must dwindle and abate, before a Living Price can be had, under such Circumstances.

If it should be thought proper to take off any Part of these high Duties, an Equivalent is here proposed.

A Comparison is also made between these high Charges, and the Duty of four and half per Cent. paid in Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, tho' not in Jamaica.

Then the Consumption of Rum by the Inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland, is briefly recommended.

And, in the Conclusion, a Method of Redress, as to the direct Exportation of Sugar, is pointed out.

Some of the Gentlemen Factors and Officers of the Customs, and others, may, perhaps, at first View, apprehend some Disadvantages from what is here offer'd: But it is submitted to all Well-wishers to their Country, whether the two Points herein aim'd at, may not be greatly advantageous to his Majesty's Subjects in general, and not in the least prejudicial in any Respect whatsoever.



THE
Sugar Trade,
WITH THE
INCUMBRANCES
THEREON,
Laid Open.



AS the *Sugar Commerce* is now justly looked upon to be one of the most beneficial Branches of Trade that belongs to *Great Britain*, I think I can do no less at this Juncture to serve my Country, than to lay open the remaining Incumbrances on that Trade in as plain a Manner as I am able; and to hint at some Methods for a further Relief.

The

The late Act of Parliament, for the better Securing and Encouraging the Trade of his Majesty's Sugar Colonies in *America*, will, in due Time, be of great Service to the *Sugar* Trade; more especially as it will make it easier to obtain the Liberty of going directly to foreign Markets with our Sugar: And the Prohibition of foreign Produce to *Ireland*, with the high Duties thereon when imported to our Plantations, will render such a Liberty much more beneficial than it could have been, had not that Act passed, in as much as it lays so considerable a Restraint upon the Vent of foreign Produce, by way of our own Plantations.

The Kingdom of *Ireland*, and the *Northern* Provinces our Sisters, can now be no longer our Adversaries, since it will be their Interest to see the *British* Sugar Plantations flourish by an extensive Vent of their Produce, as it will occasion them to have so much the larger Demands for the Products of those Northern Countries.

The Supplying the Kingdom of *Ireland* with our Produce, (altho' at a round-about Rate as to Sugar) will occasion a much greater Vent than we had before; and the Duties upon foreign Produce imported into our Plantations, will, no doubt, give us the Advantage over Foreigners, as to Supplying those *British* Dominions, notwithstanding the Duties of 18 *d.* per C. and the four and half *per Cent.* paid by us upon Exportation: But as to the Supplying of foreign Markets, that must still be given:

given up to the *French*, if we remain under the Restriction of unloading our Sugars in *Great Britain*, whilst they have the Liberty of sending theirs directly to foreign Markets, without either unloading, or so much as touching at any Port in *France*.

The Bounty of 6 *s. per C.* on refined Sugar, and 9 *d. per C.* additional Drawback, will by no means countervail that Advantage: For before such Hundred Weight of refined Sugar is ship'd, there is above 6 *s. per C.* paid on the raw Sugar from which it is made, besides other Charges: However That, no doubt, will in some Measure encourage an Exportation, at least, of the best Sorts of refined Sugar. Indeed the 9 *d. per C.* may be a Saving to the Planter from 3 to 9 *per Cent.* upon the Value of his Sugar in the Plantations, or the Net Proceeds in *Great Britain*, when Sugars sell from 40 *s.* down to 20 *s. per C.* in *London*: But by a *direct Exportation*, the Planter may save from 23 to 52 *per Cent.* upon Sugar worth those Prices in *London*; a prodigious Advantage that the *French* have had over us for these last Seven Years!

(4)

The Manner how, and the Particulars wherein, are, I think, evidently demonstrated by the following Table :

A TABLE

It appears by the foregoing Table, that there is saved to the Planter, or at least gained by the Exporter, by the additional Drawback of 9 d. per C. 9 per Cent. (but upon such Sugar only as is exported, which of late Years has been but a small Quantity) when Sugar sells at 20 s. per C. in *London*, which would be a considerable Advantage were that a living Price, which in Truth it is not : But by a *direct Exportation* to any distant Ports from *Great Britain*, there may be saved to the Planter 52 per Cent. on the first Cost, when Sugar sells at that Price, and 23 per Cent. when Sugar sells at 40 s. per C. in *London*, and so in proportion at 30 s. per C. or any other Price. And when Sugars are exported to Ports nearer to *Great Britain*, there may be saved from 19 to 40 l. upon every 100 l. Cost or Value in the Plantations.

I shall

I shall, in the next place, shew how it will stand with the Planter or Producer of Sugar, in Case the Liberty of a *direct Exportation* is granted, and that 2 s. *per C.* upon Importation into *Great Britain*, should be taken off.

A TABLE

Here it appears, that the Duties upon a *direct Exportation* would be no more than four and half *per Cent.* which is a Saving to the Producer upon every 100 *l.* according to the above-mention'd Prices) from 23 *l.* to 52 *l.*

And as to what is consumed in *Great Britain*, the Charge will be from 10 *l.* 10 *s.* to 22 *l.* 10 *s.* upon every 100 *l.* first Value, to the Producer ; which, however, is less than what is now paid by 8 *l.* to 24 *l.* upon every 100 *l.* according to the above-mention'd Prices : And I am inform'd, that the *French* pay but 6 *per Cent.* upon the Gross Value upon Importation, for what they consume, and the *Dutch* but 3 *per Cent.* upon all Sugars consumed in *Holland*.

And now having mention'd and explain'd the several Charges and Incumbrances upon the *Sugar Trade*, with their respective Proportions, and set forth the Advantages which we may gain by the late *Act of Parliament*, I shall proceed to treat upon the following Points, *viz.*

1st. The *direct Exportation* of Sugar from his Majesty's Sugar Plantations in *America* to all foreign Markets.

2^{dly}, The *Lowering the Duties* paid upon Importation of Sugar into *Great Britain*.

To which I shall add a few Words upon the Duty of four and half *per Cent.* and the Consumption of Rum in *Great Britain* and *Ireland* ; and so conclude.

The great Benefits and Advantages of a *direct Exportation*, the *French*, we know, have had
over

over us, ever since the Year 1726, I think should, in all this Time, have shewn us the Way : But we have not hitherto been so happy as to follow this Example of theirs, which enables them to underfell us at all foreign Markets, and is enough to beat out any Competitor in Trade ; And this, in my Opinion, is one of the principal Causes why so many of our Planters are insensibly run behind-hand and impoverished ; and surely they cannot long subsist with all their Industry, unless they can be eased from some of the before-mention'd *Ten Articles of Charge*.

Sugar at 20 s. *per C.* in *London*, after paying Freight Duty and Port Charges, will not make the Planter above 11 s. *per C.* *Barbadoes Money*, which is not above 9 d. for a Shilling, in proportion to what that Sugar costs the Planter before it is shipt in the Plantations, without reckoning any Interest on the Value of his Land ; as plainly appears by a Letter wrote in this Island, and printed in *London* last Year, under the Title of, *Proposals offer'd for the Sugar Planters Redress, and for Reviving the British Sugar Commerce*. So that if the additional Drawback and Bounty shall advance the *Sugar Trade* a penny upon that 9 d. which is above 11 *per Cent.* yet the *Englishman* will then get but 10 d. for his Shilling, whilst the *Frenchman* (who has still 40 *per Cent.* Advantage over the *Englishman* by the *direct Exportation*) will get 14 d. for his Shilling, admitting the *Frenchman's* Sugar to cost the same price in the Plantations as the *Englishman's*,
and

and that they sell alike at foreign Markets. Thus, whilst one is a Gainer of above 16 *per Cent.* upon the first Cost of his Produce, the other wants 20 *per Cent.* upon his Produce to make up his prime Cost.

If it should be alledged, that *Great Britain, Ireland,* and our Plantations will take off all the Sugars the *English* Plantations can make, and at a Price that shall bear a moderate Profit; still, I say, with this single Article of a *direct Exportation*, they will soon be able to supply all those *British* Dominions, and have to spare for foreign Markets, to the Value of some hundred thousand Pounds Sterling *per Ann.* which will all center in *Great Britain* for the purchase of its Produce and Manufacture, or remain there to the Benefit of the national Stock; whereas otherwise the *French* Nation must have the *Sugar* Trade in their own Hands, and oblige us, in the End, to buy all our Sugars of them, with Cash, as we formerly used to do of the *Portuguese*; which will drain the *British* Nation of an immense Sum of Money, to the great Benefit of a powerful Neighbour.

For as they not only supply their own populous Kingdom of *France*, and all its Dependencies, but also *Spain, Italy, Turkey, Flanders, Germany,* and even *Holland*, with Sugar, such a prodigious Vent must in Consequence daily enlarge their Plantations, and their Navy; and render them more formidable in this part of the World, as well as in *Europe*.

But surely the *English* would soon get the better of these their encroaching Rivals, were they

they but once put upon an equal Footing with them; since they have stood it so long under so many Disadvantages.

For if any one Man can afford to sell his Goods at foreign Markets, after paying 30, 40, or 50 *per Cent.* more than another, what could not that Man do, were he eased entirely from that Charge? Would not such an extraordinary, or I may say, reasonable Encouragement in some Years near double the Acres of Cane-Land of *British American* Soil, and consequently almost double the Exports of *British* Produce and Manufacture, take off an equal Proportion of *Irish* Produce more than they now do, and be in like Manner beneficial to all the Northern Provinces? Would not all this greatly increase the *British* Shipping and Navigation, nurse up and maintain more Seamen, improve the Revenue to a much greater Degree, and bring into and lodge an immense Treasure in *Great Britain*? Surely no one can deny it.

To explain all this, I will suppose there is now, one Year with another, 75,000 Hogheads of Sugar, containing 10 C. each imported into *Great Britain, Ireland,* and the Northern Colonies, from the following places, *viz.*

Mus-

	<i>Hogsheads.</i>
Muscovado from <i>Jamaica</i> , of their	} 20,000
own Produce, - - -	
Muscovado from the Leeward Islands,	} 27,000
of their own Produce, - - -	
Muscovado and Clay'd from <i>Bar-</i>	} 18,000
<i>badoes</i> , - - -	
	65,000
Both Sorts from the <i>French</i> and	} 10,000
<i>Dutch</i> , by way of <i>Jamaica</i> and	
the Leeward Islands, - - -	
	75,000

This amounts to 75,000 Hogsheads; of which I will suppose 50,000 to be consumed in *Great Britain*, 10,000 in *Ireland*, 5,000 in the Northern Colonies, 5,000 (raw and refined) to be exported from *Great Britain* to foreign Markets, and 5,000 to lye on our Hands.

If that 5,000 Hogsheads cannot be exported for the many Reasons before-mention'd, then there will be 10,000 lye on hand, unless sold at a Price ruinous to the Planter.

But if the foreign Importation stops, by means of this new Act, then no more than 5,000 will lye on hand; which, however, is enough to spoil any Market.

A *direct Exportation* may forthwith carry off these Surplus 5,000 Hogsheads, and perhaps as many more another Way, and so leave the Producer and Consumer to do the best they can,

together with the Help of the Merchants, Factors, Refiners, and Grocers, as middle Men between them; and Sugar may then rise a little, which will encourage our Planters to cultivate more Land, and purchase more Stock, until they render themselves capable of making the undermention'd Quantities, or more, *viz.*

<i>Hogsheads.</i>	
<i>Jamaica</i> (Muscovado and Clay'd)	60,000
Leeward Islands (Muscovado and Clay'd)	40,000
<i>Barbadoes</i> (Muscovado and Clay'd)	25,000
	125,000

This is near Double what they make now; and if no more than 60,000 Hogsheads shall then be consumed in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, and 5,000 in the Northern Colonies, the other 60,000 may be sold at foreign Markets, and the Produce thereof would come to *Great Britain*, and would amount to 900,000 *l. per Ann.* at 15 *l. per Hogshead* Gross, one with another, or 30 *s. per Hundred Weight* in *Europe*.

Now, should it be objected, that a *direct Exportation* forthwith might leave the *British* Markets too bare, and that the best Way would be to breath a little, and see the Effect of this new Law; I would answer, that it may then be too late, and that the higher the Price, the sooner our Plantations would increase: But if it should be alledged, that Sugar might rise to an extravagant Height: To that I reply, that it may

may be had from the foreign Colonies, upon paying 5 s. *Sterling per C.* Duty in our Plantations, and then you may carry it where you will, without paying the four and half *per Cent.* Duty, or the 18 d. *per C.* enumerated Duty ; so that there is no Fear of any such extravagant Rates.

In the mean time, while we are thus Breathing, the *French* may be improving, so as to supply all *Europe*, except *Great Britain* and *Ireland* ; and what few Sugars will be then made by the *Dutch*, *Portuguese*, and *Spaniards*, and our Sugar Colonies must, in the End, as long as they last, be confined to our own Dominions.

It is to be observed, our Sugar Commerce may be thus advanced without draining *Great Britain* of more Hands than she can spare, since the Labour in the Sugar Colonies is chiefly carry'd on by Negroes from *Africa*, (bought with *British* Produce and Manufactures, and Certificate Goods) and carried thither by our own Shipping.

For what Reason therefore should the *French* be permitted thus to run away with this Trade from us, who might still get the Advantage over them, by means of our low Freight and otherwise, notwithstanding their low Duties and rich Fertile Soil.

As *Great Britain* is an Island, and by Nature so well fitted for Navigation, why should we tamely and indolently lose a Branch of Trade that may employ so many hundreds of Shipping, and so many Thousands of Seamen ?
And

And why should not the *Englishman*, for God's Sake, have as near and as easy a Way to carry his Produce to foreign Markets as the *Frenchman*; since he can, if permitted, carry them much cheaper, and receive so much Benefit by such a Permission?

Besides, there is not the least Appearance of any one's being a Sufferer thereby, saving a few Gentlemen Factors, Officers of the Customs, and Brokers, &c. who after all will be no Losers in the End: And even in this Case *Great Britain* must have Sugar for her Home-Consumption, and for *Ireland*, which may amount to 60 or 70 thousand Hogsheads a Year, or more, which must all go thro' their Hands, and pay Freight Home, and Duties; so that their Loss will be only the Charges on the Re-Exportation; and when there is little or no Re-Exportation, (which must soon be the Case, if we continue under our present Circumstances) there will be little or no Loss.

Wharfage and Pilferage, Risque and Insurance, are dead Losses upon this Trade, and the second Freight the same, when it runs so high on our Part, and is altogether saved by our rival Neighbours; And the Loss of Time and the first Market is often ruinous to many Voyages, and generally gives a considerable Advantage to those who are so happy as to get first to Market.

If any of our Planters should become Adventurers, and send part of their Sugar to *Cadiz*, *Leghorn*, *Genoa*, *Naples*, or any other Port, they must order their Returns to *Great Britain*,

Britain, and probably into their Factors Hands ; whereby they, as well as the Officers of the Customs, Brokers, &c. would gain as much as they could possibly lose by such a *direct Exportation* : And the like may be said as to the Merchant-Adventurer, who would thereby have a Choice of Markets, and the Benefit of a double Voyage, without being obliged to come Home with his Returns to a glutted and restrained Market.

The *French* were under the same Restraints as we now are, until the Year 1726 ; when discovering the many Advantages of an extensive Vent of their Plantation Products, they soon obtain'd this Permission.

The Refiners at Home would be great Gainers by such a *direct Exportation*, as their coarse refined Sugar would then go off in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, instead of such Clay'd Sugars, as may be sent directly to those foreign Ports ; and thereby increase, rather than diminish the Refining of Sugar, which will add to the Quantity of Mellasses Spirits, to the Benefit of the Excise-Revenue. More Muscovado Sugar will of course be imported into *Great Britain*, which will still be a further Addition to the Sugar Manufactory, and employ more Ships and Seamen in this Respect also ; and increase the Revenue, by adding to the Duty upon Importation, and lessening the Bounty granted upon Exportation.

We shall thereby become the Carriers of Goods from the *Mediterranean* to the Northern Ports of *Europe*, as our Sugar Ships will then
be

be able to afford to carry as cheap as the *Dutch*, who will otherwise have the greatest Share of that Branch of Trade, especially since they are now at Peace with the *Algerines*.

It is objected, that Refineries may be set up in *Italy*, and in the Plantations, and that there is exported every Year to *Spain*, and other Ports in the *Mediterranean*, Refin'd Sugar to the Value of twenty to thirty Thousand Pounds Sterling, which increases the Balance of Trade so much in our Favour. This last Part of the Objection I do not deny; but still I insist, that if we have such a Liberty of *Exportation* granted us, there will be more than ten Times as much gain'd upon the Balance of our Trade, which must otherwise center in *Old France*; as the *French* have Liberty to carry not only their Clay'd Sugar, but also their Refin'd, directly from their Plantations to any Port to the Southward of *Cape Finisterre*, at very easy Duties; and then their best Clay'd Sugar will, no doubt, interfere with our worst Refin'd, and they must certainly be great Gainers thereby.

If it should be thought worth while to set up Refineries in *Italy* or elsewhere in the *Streights*, it may as easily be done with *French* Sugar directly imported, as with *English* Produce; and every one knows, that Refin'd Sugar cannot be made with so much Advantage from Clay'd Sugar, as from strong grain'd Muscovado: And as the Plantations, who have their Sugar at the first Hand, and clear of Duty, Freight, and all other Charges, but those of making it, do not find it worth their while to Refine, but have
their

their Refin'd Sugar from *Great Britain* : So it is to be presumed, that those Countries will not find it for their Advantage to Refine ; more especially as they put but a small Value upon Spirits that may be made from the Offals ; and that there is so considerable a Bounty now granted upon the Exportation of Refin'd Sugar from *Great Britain*.

But should the Objection, as to Refining in the Plantations, prove immovable, Refin'd Sugar may be excepted.

Thus much concerning a *direct Exportation* of Sugar, and the first six Articles of Charge, contain'd in the before-mention'd Tables. I shall, in the next place, touch upon the 7th, 8th, and 9th Articles of the said Tables, which make up the *Duty of* 3 s. 6 d. per C. *paid in Great Britain upon Importation* ; but 5 *per Cent.* thereout is usually deducted upon prompt Payment.

These Articles concern more immediately what Sugar is consumed in *Great Britain*, as the whole Duty by the Act before-mention'd is now drawn back upon Re-Exportation, whereas before 9 d. *per C.* being one half of the Old Subsidy, was left behind.

The 7th Article being 18 d. *per C.* is Part of the Old Subsidy, given by the 12th of *Car. 2. Chap. 4.* for Guarding and Defending the Seas against all Persons intending, or that shall intend the Disturbance of the Commons in the Intercourse of Trade, and Invading the Realm.

The 8th Article is also 18 d. *per C.* which by the 9th and 10th of *William the 3d. Chap. 23.*

was given towards the New Subsidies, for the Support of his Majesty's Household, and of the Honour and Dignity of the Crown.

The 9th Article being 6 *d. per C.* is Part of the One Third Subsidy, which is a Fund of Credit, with others, for raising the Sum of 2,855,761 *l.* 16 *s.* 2 *d.* for the Service of the Year 1706. and also Part of a General Fund for the Payment of 1,155,000 *l.* borrow'd for the Service of the Year 1707, and were part of the Fund for the long Annuities for 99 Years.

These Duties amount, by the Table, to 42 *per Cent.* to the Planter, when Sugar is worth in *London* 20 *s. per C.* and 14 *per Cent.* when it is worth 40 *s. per C.* there; and so in Proportion, according to the several Prices of that Commodity.

As these Articles are now totally drawn back on Exportation, they do not so much affect the Trade, as to what is Re-Exported, which is now a very small Quantity: But the other Charges before treated of are enough to prevent any Re-Exportation at all; *as they enhance the Price of our Sugar at foreign Markets to a great Degree*, as appears by the foregoing Tables; and when there is more Sugar imported from the Sugar Islands than is wanted in *Great Britain and Ireland*, it will fill the Warehouses, and glut the Markets, and consequently bring that Commodity down to a lower Price than it can be made for, while those Duties are paid, and we are thus restrained: So that these high Duties of 14 to 42 *per Cent.* lie the heavier upon the Planter, for want of such a *direct Exportation*:

portation: As we see by Experience, that our home Markets, as to Sugars, are but little affected upon paying these high Duties, (which is quite different as to most other Commodities) nor can they rise under such Circumstances, until less Sugar be made in the Plantations; whereby the *British* Stock and Power, in this part of the World, must dwindle and fall away, to the great Prejudice of the Navigation and Trade, and consequently of the Revenue and Strength of *Great Britain*.

If we could be so far commiserated as to become Sharers of the great Benefits that arise from the Sinking Fund, by having these Duties, or two of the Three Articles taken off, it would greatly encourage the Plantations: That, together with a *direct Exportation*, may make us once more Masters of the Sugar Trade.

The 10th and last Article of Charge mention'd in the Table, is that of *the Duty of four and half per Cent.* paid only in *Barbadoes*, and the Leeward Islands, but not in *Jamaica*. This is but an inconsiderable Charge, in Proportion to others mention'd in the first Table: And yet it is a heavy Burthen upon the Producers, considering the present Circumstances of the Planters, and the other Inhabitants; as the Planters pay it all, and that too upon the Gross Amount of what they make: So that when the Charges of making their Produce come to Half the Gross Amount (which very often happens) they pay 9 *per Cent.* upon their yearly Profits: And when they pay half those yearly Profits to

their Creditors, or for Annuities settled by their Forefathers when they had better Times, then that Duty comes to 18 *per Cent.* which is near 4 s. in the Pound upon their yearly Income ; and the other Charges before-mention'd upon such a Producer are to be consider'd accordingly.

However, this Duty or Charge pays the Governors Salary, and is subjected to 1000 *l. Sterling per Ann.* to the Heir of the Earl of *Carlisle*, the first Proprietor of this Island, or to his Assigns : It also pays the Surveyor-General of his Majesty's Customs in *Barbadoes*, and all other Custom-house Officers, who have the Care of this Duty, and the enumerated Duties, and of the Acts of Trade : And this Duty may moreover be greatly increased by a *direct Exportation*, and be easier afforded than it can be without such a Vent.

I observe further, That the *British* Parliament has favour'd us as to our second *Staple Commodity Rum*, by imposing a higher Duty on all Brandies, than on that Commodity, which gives us the comfortable Hopes that our worthy Patriots at Home will be of Opinion; that the Produce of our Sugar Colonies should be almost as tenderly regarded as the Produce of *Great Britain* ; and that *Rum* should be put nearly upon the same Foot with *British* Spirits, and in Opposition to *French* Brandy. A proper Encouragement for the Importation of *Rum* into *Great Britain* and *Ireland* would be of a very great Help to the Plantations, and
very

very much discourage the Consumption of *French* Brandy, a Commodity that is as pernicious in every Degree as *Rum* is beneficial : Such an Encouragement would put the Sugar Planters upon their Industry and Endeavours to make a Spirit that might be wholsomer and consequently more acceptable than those foreign Spirits, for which we are annually at a great Expence of Bullion. The Produce of *Rum* would remain in *Great Britain*, or would be returned to the Plantations in *British* Produce and Manufactures, and save so much Cash from being sent out of the Nation : And it is observable, that within these few Years this Island has improved in their *Rum* or *Spirit* to a very great Degree ; and it is allow'd to be already not only a wholesome Liquor, and what mixes well with *British* Malt-Spirits ; but a sovereign Remedy in many Cases.

I shall now conclude with an Observation of Sir *Francis Bacon's*, in treating upon *Plantations*, he says, “ Let there be Freedom from
 “ Customs till the Plantations be of Strength ;
 “ and not only Freedom from Customs, but
 “ Freedom to carry their Commodities where
 “ they may make the best of them, except
 “ there be some special Cause of Caution.” Every one knows our Sugar Plantations now want Strength, or at least some Remedy ; and I know of no Caution needful in our Case, except that of pursuing the same Methods, as to the Sugar Trade, as are now used in respect
 to

to the * *Rice Trade* from the Province of *Carolina*, and the *Fish Trade* from *New-England* and *Newfoundland*: And I flatter myself, from the Nature and Necessity of the Thing, that I may yet live to see † *Sugar* an un-enumerated Commodity, and no longer inserted in our Plantation Bonds.

* *Acts relating to the Rice Trade.* 3 & 4 *Ann.* ch. 5. Sect. 12. 3 *Geo.* II. ch. 28.

† *Acts relating to the Sugar Trade.* 12 *Car.* II. ch. 18. Sect. 18, 19. 15 *Car.* II. ch. 7. Sect. 5, 6, 9. 22 & 23 *Car.* II. ch. 26. Sect. 10, 11, 12, 13. 25 *Car.* II. ch. 7. Sect. 2. 7 & 8 *Gul.* III. ch. 22. Sect. 2, 4, 5, 8, 13. 8 *Ann.* ch. 13. Sect. 23.

F I N I S.